
Manner: HOMICIDE

A death is classified as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person. The person thus responsible for the injuries may be charged with murder or manslaughter by the prosecuting attorney, or the prosecuting attorney may decline to file charges. During 2001, 74 deaths were classified as homicide. This number represents 4.7% (74/1,578) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2001. Of these 74 homicides, 66 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. For comparison, there were 73 homicides investigated in 2000, of which 66 were incidents in King County. In 1999, 82 of 89 homicides were in King County.

The data reflect the weapons responsible for the homicidal deaths in 2001. Firearms were responsible for 58% (43/74), compared to 2000, when 53% (39/73) were due from firearms. Eleven percent (8/74) of the homicidal victims died as a result of stabbing by a knife or other sharp-edged instrument. There were 19% (14/74) of deaths due to blunt impact injuries. There were three (3) deaths due to strangulation/asphyxia. Six (6) deaths were due to other homicidal means.

In 2001, there was one (1) homicide victim between one and five years of age. Three (3) homicide victims were between thirteen and fifteen years of age. Seven (7) homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 19 years. There were no homicide victims between 6 and 12 years of age during 2001.

Examining racial distribution of victims of homicide, 30% (22/74) of the victims were Black, compared to 2000, when 29% (21/73) of the victims were Black. Whites, while representing 76% of the population, made up 61% (45/74) of the homicide victims. The remaining 9% of homicide victims (7/74), included Asians/Pacific Islanders and others. Men comprised 78% (58/74) and women 22% (16/74) of the victims. The majority of victims, 51% (38/74) were between the ages of 20 and 39 years. Young people, 19 years old and under, comprised 15% (11/74) of the homicide victims. For comparison, this younger age group represented 21% (15/73) in the year 2000. Ninety-two percent (68/74) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 34% (23/68) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

Of the 74 homicidal deaths in 2001, eighty-nine percent (66/74) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County, and of these deaths, 33 occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In 8 of the 74 homicidal deaths the fatal incident occurred outside of King County. However, the victims were transported to area hospitals within county lines prior to death justifying King County Medical Examiner jurisdiction upon death.

The relationship of victim to assailant was not tabulated as part of this report. In order to investigate such associations, additional review of police records would be necessary.

Graph 4-1

Homicidal Methods in 2001

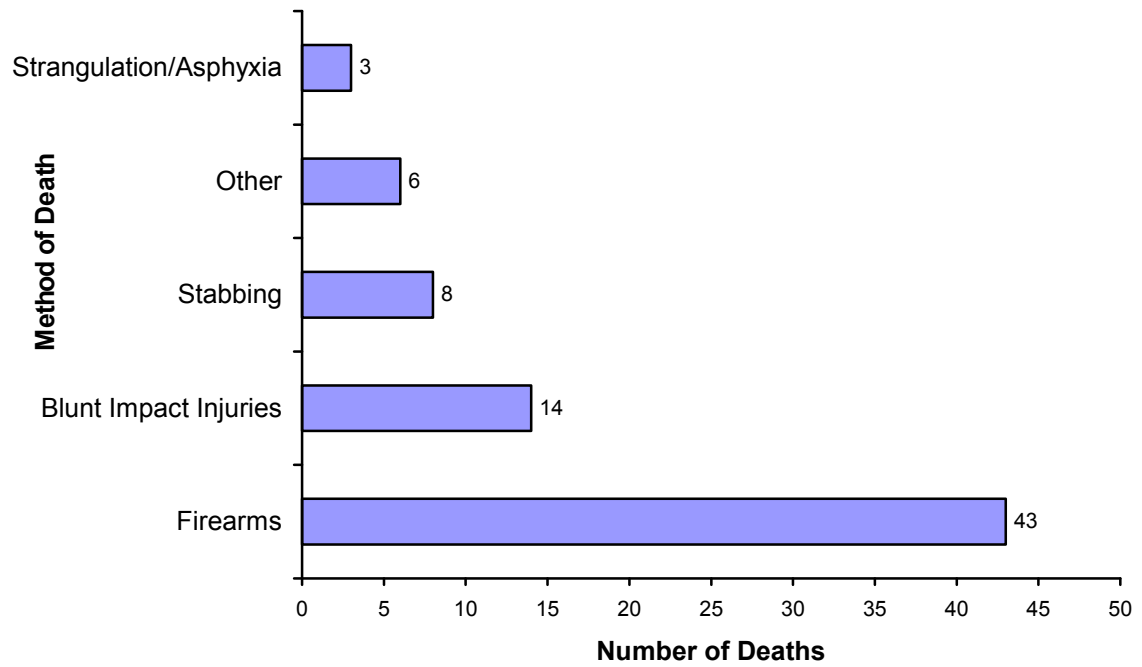


Table 4-1 Homicidal Methods and Race of the Victim

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	2	0	0	0	1		3
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	1	2	
Firearms	24	14	5	0	0		43
<i>Male</i>	20	13	4	0	0	37	
<i>Female</i>	4	1	1	0	0	6	
Blunt Impact Injuries	10	4	0	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	8	4	0	0	0	12	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Stabbing	5	3	0	0	0		8
<i>Male</i>	3	3	0	0	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Other	4	1	1	0	0		6
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	2	1	1	0	0	4	
Total	45	22	6	0	1		74
Percent	60.8%	29.7%	8.1%	0.0%	1.4%		

Table 4-2 Homicidal Methods and Age Group of the Victim

METHOD/ GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)													SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Firearms	0	0	0	1	4	20	7	8	1	2	0	0	0		43
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	1	3	19	7	6	0	1	0	0	0	37	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	6	
Blunt Impact Injuries	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	4	2	0	1	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	12	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Stabbing	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0		8
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Other	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0		6
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Total	0	1	0	3	7	27	11	15	6	3	1	0	0		74
Percent	0%	1%	0%	4%	9%	36%	15%	20%	8%	4%	1%	0%	0%		

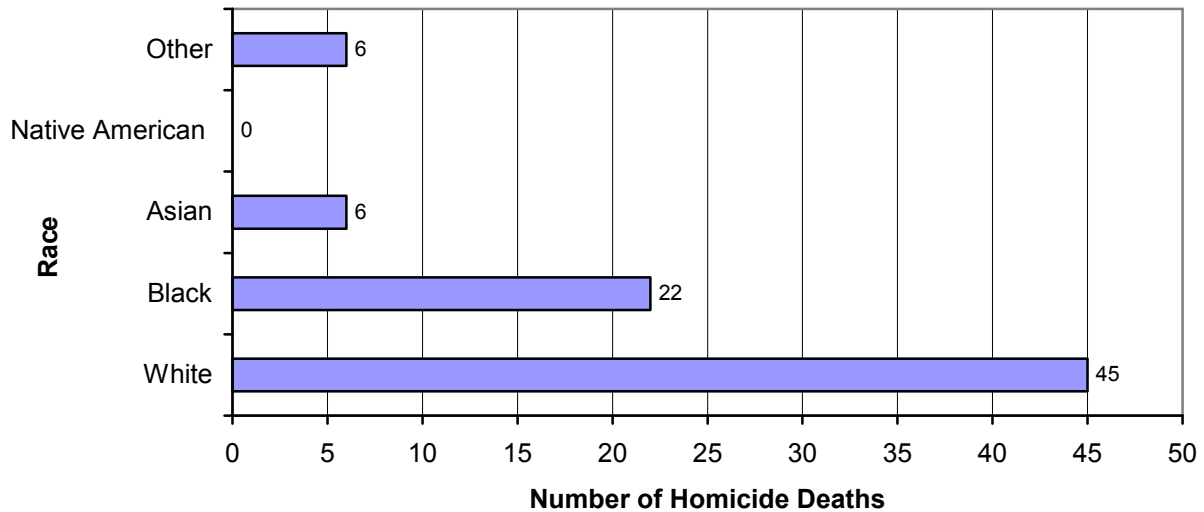
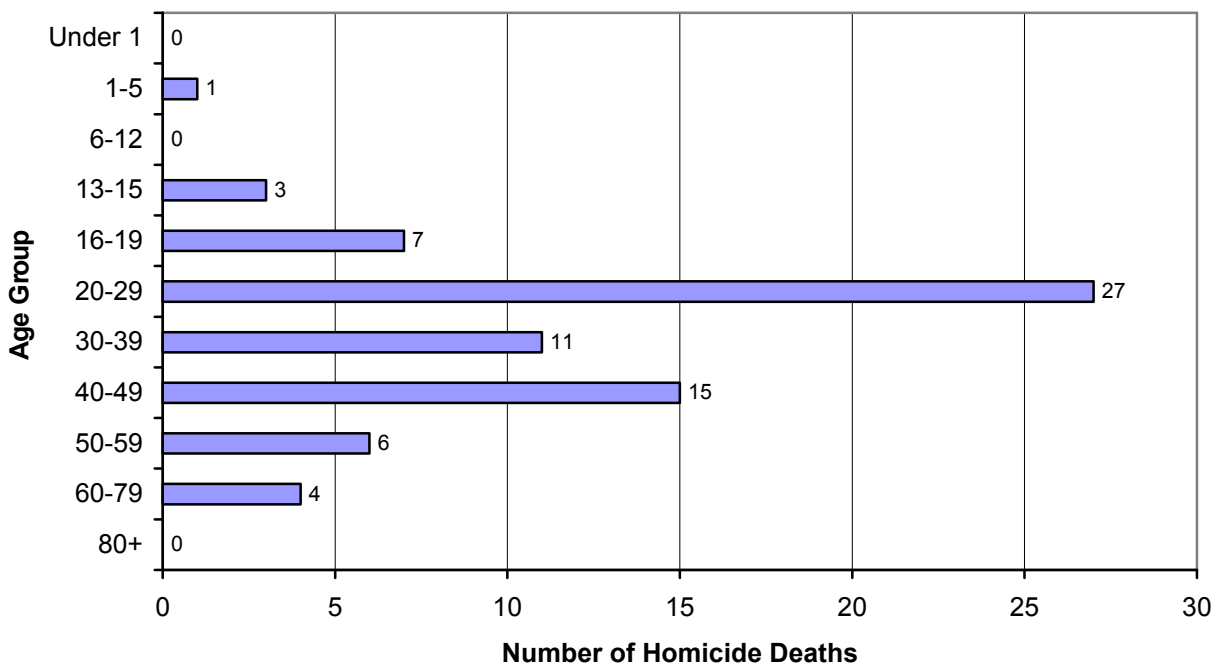
Graph 4-2 Homicide Deaths and Race of the Victim**Graph 4-3 Homicide Deaths and Age Group of the Victim**

Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDER 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Asphyxia/ Strangulation	White	0	0	0	0	1	1		2
	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	Black	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	OTHER	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Firearms	White	1	2	11	2	5	3		24
	Male	1	2	10	2	4	1	20	
	Female	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	
	Black	0	2	5	5	2	0		14
	Male	0	1	5	5	2	0	13	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
	Asian	0	0	4	0	1	0		5
	Male	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blunt Impact Injuries	White	1	0	1	1	4	3		10
	Male	1	0	1	1	2	3	8	
	Female	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
	Black	1	0	3	0	0	0		4
	Male	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 4-3 (Cont..) Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDER 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Stabbing	WHITE	0	1	1	1	0	3		6
	<i>Male</i>	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	
	BLACK	0	0	1	0	1	0		2
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ASIAN	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	NATIVE AMER.	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	WHITE	1	1	0	1	1	0		4
	<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	
	<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	
	BLACK	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
	OTHER	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
TOTAL BY AGE		4	7	27	11	15	10		74

Table 4-4 Homicidal Methods and Gender of the Victim

METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia/Strangulation	1	2	3
Firearms	37	6	43
Blunt Impact Injuries	12	2	14
Stabbing	6	2	8
Other	2	4	6
Total	58	16	74
Percent	78%	22%	

Table 4-5 Homicidal Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Victim

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	0	2	1	3
Firearms	15	26	2	43
Blunt Impact Injuries	1	10	3	14
Stabbing	2	6	0	8
Other	5	1	0	6
Total	23	45	6	74
Percent	31%	61%	8%	